



Academic Fee Waiver

Requirements and Application Instructions

National Park Service regulations allow school groups and other approved national and international academic institutions to obtain a waiver of park entrance fees, provided the visit is for educational or scientific purposes, and the resources or facilities that the group intends to use support those purposes.

Academic fee waivers are not granted automatically. Applicant groups must demonstrate that they qualify for the waiver. There are three requirements that the group must meet to qualify for an academic fee waiver: eligibility, educational purpose, and relevancy of park resources or facilities.

Eligibility

Applicants must prove they are an academic or scientific institution by presenting one of the following types of documentation:

- A statement confirming educational or scientific tax exemption from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority; or
- A statement from an academic institution that meets one of these eligibility standards confirming that the group is visiting for the purpose of providing transferable academic credit based on a curriculum; or,
- A statement confirming accreditation or recognition as an educational institution from a qualified national, regional, state, or local authority.

Your fee waiver request cannot be processed without submission of this documentation.

Educational Purpose

Applicants must provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered. If the group is on a commercial tour, the applicant must state how the tour supports the curriculum.

Relevance of Park Resources

Applicants must provide a written explanation identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose.

Application Procedures

To apply for an academic fee waiver, complete the attached application and include the following:

- Attach current official documentation of recognition as an academic institution by a federal, state, or local government entity, or other evidence attesting to educational status (e.g., accreditation letter, tax exemption status).

- A written statement confirming a direct relationship between the purpose of the visit and the use of the park. The visit must include the study of some aspect or resource specific to the park. A general statement to the effect that the visit is for “academic” or “educational purposes” is, by itself, insufficient. An explanation of what the educational purpose entails and how it is related to park resources is required (e.g., course outlines, lesson plans, copy of the curriculum).
- A written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered. Documentation such as a copy of the school’s course catalog or handbook will satisfy this requirement.

Submit your application package at least two weeks prior to your visit. Applications that are incomplete may be denied. Please submit the application by mail, fax, or email to:

Zion National Park

Attn: Fee Management Office / Fee Clerk

State Route 9

Springdale, UT 84767

Fax: (435) 772-0281

Phone: (435) 772-0177

Email: zion_fee_waivers@nps.gov

If the application is approved, a copy of the application with an approval signature will be emailed or faxed to you. Each vehicle must present a copy of the approved fee waiver at the park entrance station. **Fees will not be waived for vehicles that do not have a copy of the waiver.**

Entrance station personnel are not authorized to approve fee waivers at the entrance stations.

Additional Information

If the anticipated visit is recreational, you will enter as an “organized non-commercial” group. The following, as outlined in National Park Service Recreation Fee Program, is then in effect:

- Organizations that are generally considered service, civic, or fraternal (e.g., Scouting, Rotary, faith-based organizations, clubs, etc.) do NOT qualify for the academic fee waiver unless they meet the requirements.
- Individuals 15 years of age and younger are exempt from entrance fees.
- Individuals 16 years of age and older are charged the non-private fee of \$12.00 per person.
- Federal Recreation Pass holders and their immediate families (i.e., parents, spouse and children) are not required to pay. The pass along with photo identification must be presented at the entrance station.



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Plan Your Visit

Entrance and Camping Fees

The lead teacher and each vehicle entering the park must have an approved academic fee waiver in their possession. Groups and vehicles arriving without an approved academic fee waiver will be charged the non-private fee of \$12.00 per person for individuals age 16 and older. Annual Passes, Senior Passes, and Access Passes will be accepted. No refunds will be issued. Entrance station personnel are not authorized to approve applications.

Academic fee waivers do not include camping fees.

- Camping is available by reservation March to November. Reservations can be made on www.recreation.gov or by calling 877 444-6777.
- Self-registration camping is available all year on a first-come, first-served basis for individual campsites with a limit of six people per campsite. Please refer to the park website at www.nps.gov/zion for additional information.

Tunnel Restrictions and Fees

All vehicles at or above 11'4" high (136"), and/or 7'10" wide (94") require an escort for passage through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel.

- The fee for the tunnel service is \$15. This service is only available at designated times. Check at an entrance station or on the park website for tunnel hours. Credit cards, cash, or checks are accepted.
- The following vehicles are prohibited from passing through the park: vehicles over 13'1" tall (157"), single vehicles over 40' in length, and combined vehicles over 50' in length.

Groups Size Limits

The following areas limit the number of individuals that may be on the trail at any given time. If your group size exceeds the limits, you will need to split up your group. If the area you wish to use is not listed, please contact the park prior to your visit. Ranger-led programs may have different group size limits.

Frontcountry Trails

Maximum Group Size: 50 people

Riverside Walk, Weeping Rock Trail, East Rim Trail (Observation Point), West Rim Trail (Angels Landing (only to Scout Lookout)), Kayenta Trail, Emerald Pools Trails, Sand Bench Trail, Court of the Patriarchs Trail, Pa'rus Trail, Watchman Trail, Canyon Overlook Trail, and Timber Creek Trail.

The Narrows

Maximum Group Size: 25 people

End of the Riverside Walk to Orderville Canyon (requires travel through the Virgin River). Permits are required for travel into Orderville Canyon.

Backcountry Trails

Maximum Group Size: 12 people

If you wish to utilize any trails not listed above, please contact the park in advance. Many backcountry trails require day-use permits, overnight permits, or have additional limitations as determined by the Zion National Park General Management Plan and Zion Backcountry Management Plan.

Chaperone to Student Ratio

To aid in student safety and monitoring, the recommended chaperone to student ratios are as follows:

Age Group	Recommended Ratio
High School	1:12
Middle School/Jr. High School	1:8
Elementary School	1:5

Parking

Available parking areas and bus limitations vary by season and depend on whether or not the Zion Canyon Shuttle Service is in operation. Dates in which the mandatory shuttle system operates vary. Please check with the park for specific dates. Buses are required to turn their engines off when parked.

April through October

Zion National Park has a mandatory shuttle system servicing the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive from April to October. Groups arriving in vehicles other than school buses will need to park and ride the shuttle into Zion Canyon. Traditional school buses are allowed to park at the following locations only and must abide by the limitations on the number of buses permitted in each parking area. School groups arriving in motor coaches should contact the park in advance for parking information.

Parking Area	Maximum Number of Buses
Zion Human History Museum	Two
Zion Lodge Bus Parking Area	As Space Permits
The Grotto Parking Lot (Riverside Only)	Two
Weeping Rock Parking Lot	Two
Temple of Sinawava	Four

November through March

Buses may park in any legal parking stall within Zion National Park. Vehicles over 19 feet in length are not permitted in the Weeping Rock Parking Lot and Canyon Overlook Parking Lot.